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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

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Letter dated 15 July 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to our letter dated 15 July 1998 (A/52/984-S/1998/651), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded from 17 to 20 July 1998.

On 17 and 18 July, 16 Turkish military aircraft (2 F-16, 10 NF-5, 1 CN-235, 2 C-130 and 1 C-160) entered the northern Nicosia flight information region in violation of international air traffic regulations.

The 10 NF-5 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, east of Kyrenia and landed at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko. The two F-16 after violating the national airspace of the Republic returned to the flight information region of Ankara. The CN-235, C-130s and C-161 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, landing at the illegal airports of Tymbou and Lefkoniko, and returned soon afterwards to the Ankara flight information region.

Furthermore, on 19 and 20 July, nine Turkish military aircraft (6 F-16, 1 VIP plane transporting the Turkish Prime Minister, 1 CN-235 and 1 C-650) entered the Nicosia flight information region in violation of international air traffic regulations.

Four F-16s returned to the Ankara flight information region on 19 July 1998, and the two remaining F-16s returned the following day. After violating the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, the CN-235 and the C-650 landed at the illegal airport of Tymbou on 19 July 1998, and the VIP plane on 20 July 1998.

As stated above, such intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules. At the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest against these new provocative acts by Turkey, a Member State of the United Nations, against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. These acts are in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Agis LOIZOU
Chargé d'affaires a.i.